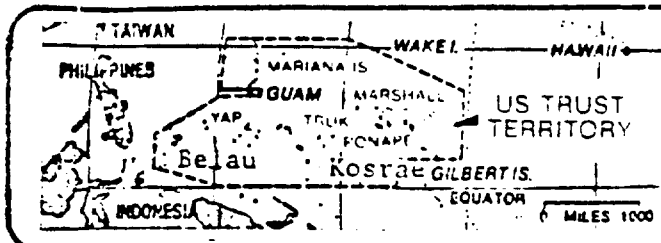


GREENE, W. J. June 1, 1961  
To: B. W. Wachholz 402834



Vol. 5, #2  
Summer, 1961

## MICRONESIA SUPPORT COMMITTEE BULLETIN

1212 University Ave., Honolulu Hi. 96826

### Bikini Rep. Says No

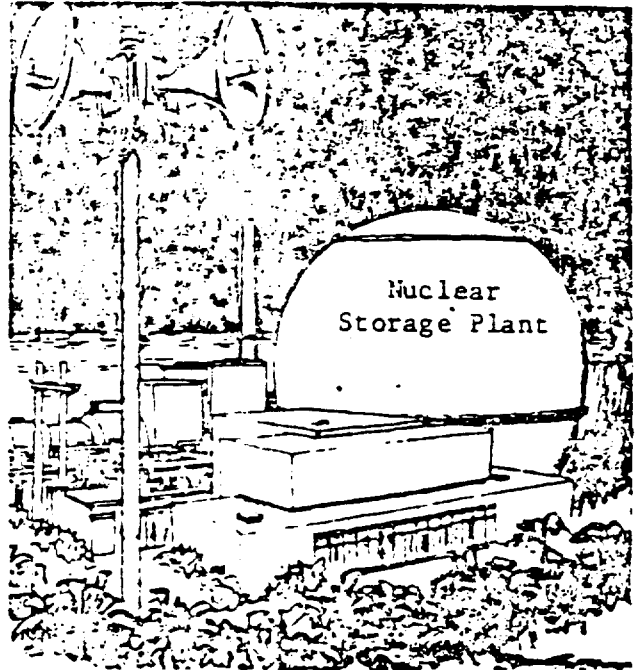
## KABUA PROPOSES BIKINI N-DUMP

Marshall Islands President Amata Kabua has suggested the Japanese abandon their ocean dumping plans and consider storing radioactive waste on land that is already contaminated.

Speaking at the Third Annual Meeting of the Association of Chief Executives of the Pacific Basin on September 2, Kabua suggested the use of Bikini and Enewetak Atolls, that were contaminated by nuclear bomb tests by the United States.

"Is it possible that a tragic misfortune which befall our people could be turned around to provide a safe, practical way to deal with a world problem and provide a form of economic recovery for people who have lost so much?" Kabua said. The ocean, he said, must be protected, and offering the Japanese an alternative may be the best way to achieve that end.

At the opening session of the Conference Japanese government representatives asked permission to dump low level nuclear wastes in the Marianas trench. Japanese scientists Hiroshi Goto described safety precautions Japan is taking to prevent contamination of the ocean and repeated an invitation to the Pacific government heads to visit the Japanese facility preparing the dumping canisters and see what safety precautions are being taken.



"In case of emergency, repeat after me: Our father..."

Goto, Deputy Director of Japan's Nuclear Safety Bureau, said, "I will take off my shirt and embrace one of the drums for as long as you desire." The chief was serious but the audience took the promise as a bit of a joke and broke out in laughter.

Continued on Page 14

## ON THE INSIDE:

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*Ponape Unhappy With Faichuk Move*

*Another Nuclear Cover-Up*

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Thanks to Janice Vitarelli for the drawing on page 5.

#### POLITICAL STATUS TALKS AWAIT REAGAN REVIEW

As we go to press, New York friends report that the Reagan administration's inter-agency review committee has completed its policy review of the Compact of Free Association and sent a report to the President. There are no indications, however, when Reagan will publicly state his policy towards Micronesia and the Compact which was initiated in October and November 1980. Formal negotiations, already spanning 12 years, have been stalled since last year, pending the outcome of the review.

On another front, Interior Secretary James Watt has selected Pedro San Juan as assistant secretary for territorial and international affairs. San Juan, described as "a veteran diplomat, linguist and foreign economics expert," will be in a key policy level position in charge of American territories, including Guam, Samoa, the Virgin Islands and the Trust Territory. In June, leaders of U.S. Pacific territories criticized Reagan's lack of a Pacific policy, noting that San Juan has no background in Pacific issues.

San Juan, in addition to speaking nine languages, has held several other important posts, including assistant president of the Inter-American Development Bank, and deputy director for policy planning in the Defense Department's bureau of international security.

Reagan has appointed Janet McCoy, a Reagan campaign worker with strong Republican Party ties, to be the new T.T. High Commissioner, replacing Adrian Winkle. Her confirmation hearings are scheduled for October.

□□□□□□□□□□

Our thanks go out to all the people who have been sending us contributions, both large and small, during the summer. Everyone is both greatly needed and appreciated! MSC, since its formation in 1975, has been entirely volunteer run. So your donations go directly to our projects: publishing the Bulletin, producing and duplicating educational slide shows, publishing special reports such as the Marshall Islands Chronology (see page 6), intermittent mailings

and articles on defense and political status issues, and other projects. The only overhead costs are the rent and telephone; our single largest cost is postage. MSC's financial report is available on request.

We encourage you to write us with your comments and suggestions about articles in this issue and/or suggestions for future issues. Also, please send us news clippings and other information you come across that related to Micronesia and the Pacific -- material you provide us with may be the piece of information we needed to complete a story

## RENEW TODAY

Have you renewed your MSC Bulletin subscription? If not, why not do it today? (\$5 per year for individuals; \$10 a year for organizations/institutions - see coupon on page 23.) Your financial support makes it possible for MSC to keep publishing the Bulletin.

The Pacific Concerns Resource Center in Honolulu was established with the support of the more than 55 delegates to the Nuclear Free Pacific Conference/1980 representing 17 Pacific and Pacific Rim countries and territories. The PCRC, moving into its second year of operation, provides an invaluable resource service with information on nuclear, environmental, independence, military and other issues effecting the Pacific

Since 1975, the Micronesia Support Committee has, to the best of its ability, provided resources on a variety of Pacific issues to our readers. Now that the PCRC is functioning, with its major emphasis on information dissemination, it will be handling requests for resource material. MSC is working closely with the Center to insure that all available resources on the Pacific area are catalogued at the Center. To give an idea of some of the material available through the PCRC, enclosed is a partial resource sheet. For further information, and a complete resource list, write to the PCRC at P.O. Box 27692, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96827.

# Strike, Bombs Hit Belau

3

Virtually the entire government work force in the Republic of Belau went on a one day strike September 8, demanding a 100 percent pay increase. The walkout by 300 Belau workers was preceded by the bombing of President Haruo Remeliik's office.

According to reports, two bombs totally destroyed the president's office in Koror, shortly before 6:30 am. There were no injuries and no one claimed responsibility for the bombing.

Later in the day, government workers converged on the Legislature building, next to the destroyed presidential office. The 50 man police force also joined the strike, releasing the prisoners in Belau's jail before they walked out. One of the prisoners was shot later that day by a shop owner who opened fire on the man when he reportedly took goods without paying. He died several hours later.

Remeliik flew to Saipan the following day to confer with U.S. High Commissioner Dan High about funds to meet the strikers' wage demands. According to an UPI dispatch, High said that Belau will not get any more U.S. money because "there isn't any", at

least not in the Trust Territory budget. High said he would pass the request on to Washington. The additional funds needed to cover the strikers' demands would amount to approximately \$2 million. Belau currently operates on a grant of \$9.7 million from the U.S. and \$3.7 million in locally generated funds.

The government workers agreed to return to work after the one day strike pending the outcome of Remeliik's meeting with High on Saipan.

According to UPI, Roman Tmetuchl, a spokesman for the strikers and political rival of the president, arrived on Saipan at the same time for the talks with the High Commissioner. Tmetuchl said an agreement between the strikers and Remeliik had been reached, according to UPI.

But Remeliik denied that threats by employees forced him to hield to a multi-million dollar pay increase demand. He said "We were working on a toal reorganization of my administration. The people just don't understand such things take time, particularly in these times of financial difficulties."

## CONFRONTATION LOOMS OVER BELAU MILITARY USE

by Robert C. Aldridge

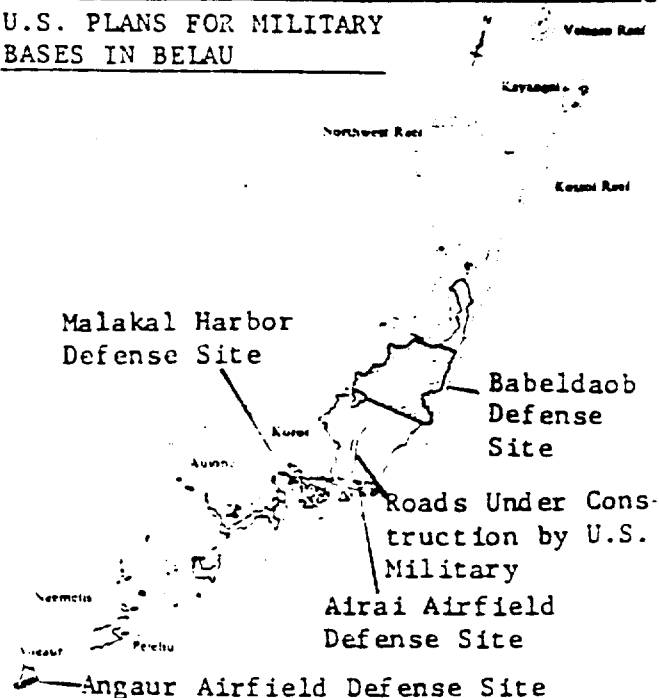
Is it possible for a handful of Belauans in the remote Western Pacific to resist the awesome Pentagon momentum? Or will Belau, like so many even larger countries before it, be the bloody scene of a CIA-instigated coup? Confrontation is shaping up and the outcome may well depend on all of us who make up world opinion.

This westernmost cluster of the Caroline group comprises a mere 110,000 acres which provide a home for 15,000 Belauans. As many as 50,000 were once self-sufficient there but foreign domination and war have taken their toll.

Since World War II, Belau has been part of the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific administered by the United States.

In three separate elections, necessitated because of strong U.S. opposition, the Belauan people overwhelmingly ratified a nuclear free constitution which prohibits any military use of their land. They say that when soldiers come, war comes --

### U.S. PLANS FOR MILITARY BASES IN BELAU



because of Japanese bases, the southern islands of Peleliu and Angaur saw fierce battles during World War II. Now the people correctly recognize that American bases will put them in the crosshairs of a Soviet nuclear missile.

Continued on Page

# CONFRONTATION LOOMS

Continued from Page 3

Negotiations have continued for over 20 years on a "Compact of Free Association" which will give the Pentagon everything it desires in the way of bases including exclusive responsibility for the security and defense of the islands for 100 years. The Compact will require only a majority of votes for approval, but one subsidiary agreement allowing the introduction of nuclear weapons and other hazardous materials will require approval by 75 percent of the voters because it modifies their constitution. A one time rental payment of just \$5.5 million for 15 years plus scanty aid for development is being offered to entice the voters.

PENTAGON PLANS FOR BELAU ARE FOURFOLD. First is the naval port in Malakal Harbor which is expected to be a forward base for the new Trident missile firing submarines. The strategic location, the ready access to deep water and, most important, an isolated and small population to deal with make Belau an ideal place for Tridents to hide. But the islanders are concerned about the high crime rate and moral decay which surrounds military installations. They also worry about dredging a new entrance through the barrier reef which protects a dazzling array of sea life would upset the delicate underwater balance so critical to their survival.

Second is 30,000 acres of Babeldaob, the largest island, for jungle warfare training. That is 27% of Belau's land area. The belief is that this would be a CIA project to train counter-insurgency troops of Asian dictators who provide a favorable climate for American business; similar to the "School of the Americas" in Panama where special forces of repressive South American regimes are drilled.

Third is joint use of the airports on Babeldaob and southernmost Angaur. The Babeldaob airstrip will likely be a base for Japanese anti-submarine warfare (ASW) planes which the Pentagon could allow under the Compact. Such use was mentioned in a 1975 Air College description of the joint U.S.-Japan Micronesia Pacific Defense Force (MICPAC) and Japan has ASW responsibility under that alliance. Japan is currently buying 45 P-3C Orion subchasers from Lock-

heed and has announced basing location for only half of them. The other half could very well be planned for Belau under MICPAC arrangements. Target date for determining MICPAC bases is 1982.

Fourth and last are two weapons storage sites on Babeldaob totalling 2,000 acres to stockpile the nuclear, chemical-biological and conventional munitions needed to support the bases.

A plebiscite to accept or reject the Compact could take place next year. In a previous constitutional election \$100,000 was provided by the Trust Territory High Commissioner as routine operating expenses to help pro-military supporters conduct political education. On one occasion three shots were fired into the "People's Committee" office but no one was hurt. Still the people remained firm in their resolve for a nuclear free constitution.

There are ominous signs of more violence to come. Last February the "Galaxy-10" -- registered in Panama -- sailed into Belau with a crew of four. Local fishermen suspected smuggling and alerted the police who obtained a search warrant for dope. Instead, according to reports from Belau, they found M-16 rifles, ammunition and hand grenades along with surveillance equipment and \$1 million in U.S. currency. U.S. officials removed the boat and its crew and nothing has been heard since. Speculation on this is frightening.

Belauans are adamant that their land remain an undisturbed sanctuary but Pentagon interests are strong. In the past, the United States has not demonstrated much patience with small governments that oppose its policy. El Salvador is a striking example. Will that be the fate of tiny Belau? The only hope for the Belauan people is a massive tide of public opinion supporting their determination to remain free.

(Robert Aldridge is a widely published defense analyst who recently visited the Republic of Belau. He worked for 16 years with Lockheed as an aerospace engineer developing nuclear warhead missiles.)



# Ponape Unhappy With Faichuk Move

5

During its July special session in Truk, the Federated States of Micronesia Congress passed a bill which would set in motion the formation and admission of the State of Faichuk as a separate state of the FSM. The Faichuk area of Truk lagoon comprises eight island municipalities with a combined population of more than 8,000 people.

The move by the FSM Congress brought a negative response from a number of high ranking officials from Ponape attending the first leadership conference there. According to one report, while most of the leaders did not take a firm position, "most of the sentiments offered to some extent seem to favor secession from the infant federation."

The Director of the Ponape Resources and Development Department, Herman Semes, charged that the fragmentation of the districts in the T.T. originated in the Congress, and the "FSM Congress seems to be moving in the same direction," adding that further moves by the congress to fragment the FSM will jeopardize the unity people speak of.

Semes also said that because of the importance of this matter, public hearings throughout the FSM should have been held

on the Faichuk bill prior to approval by the Congress.

The FSM is currently comprised of four states: Kosrae, Ponape, Truk and Yap. Explaining the background to the Faichuk separation movement, Senator Bailey Olter from Ponape, noted that it began in 1960. The move, according to Olter, stems from dissatisfaction of the Faichuk people regarding medical treatment and needed capital improvement projects in the area.

The Ponape conference, with key elected and traditional leaders from all parts of the state, established a committee to study possible advantages and disadvantages of Faichuk becoming a separate state.

Legislature Speaker Edwel Santos said, "we will review the economic, political and financial impact of the separation of the Faichuk area from Truk."

Ponape Governor Leo Falcam noted that "the decision we make may change our relationship with the Federated States of Micronesia."

Adapted from an article in the National Union (Ponape) 8-15.

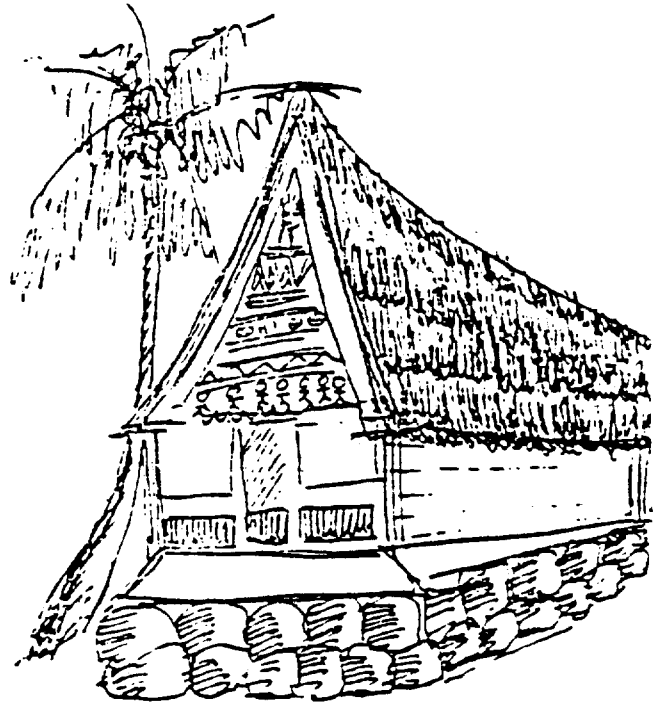
## REAGAN CUTS WORRY OUTER ISLANDS

Federated States of Micronesia President Tosiwo Nakayama led a large group of FSM and Truk state officials on a six day tour of the Mortlock Islands, an outer island chain in Truk. A report on their trip noted that the sentiment of many outer islands' people was summed up by leaders on Oneop who declared: "Lead us into self-sufficiency, deliver us from canned mackerel."

During the fact finding field trip, the people of Kuttu, the first of the flat low lying lagoon islands in the Mortlocks, expressed anxiety over the announcement by the Reagan administration that it will terminate on October 1 the U.S. Department of Agriculture family feeding program.

Municipal Council Chairman Masao Mark asked the government visitors to urge Washington to continue the USDA surplus commodities program, because the island was still unable to feed its population since a 1976 typhoon flooded the island with sea water about four feet deep.

Typhoon Pamela had damaged all of the islands visited, but Kuttu was hit hardest.



An inspection revealed most of the breadfruit trees were yellowing and barren and the taro patch which provides the main staple of the island was filled with stunted plants because the soil is still contaminated with salt.

Continued on Page 6

# MARSHALL IS. CHRONOLOGY

6

The new, revised edition of the Chronology is hot off the press!!

It contains information on the U.S. nuclear and weapons testing program unavailable in any one other document, including: the resettlement of the Bikini and Enewetak people and their struggle to survive in exile; the nuclear weapons tests, contamination of Marshallese and U.S. servicemen and the resulting health problems; the Army's key missile testing range at Kwajalein; job and pay discrimination against Marshallese employees at the range; the attempts to resettle Bikini and Enewetak

and much more information.

Originally published in 1978 as a 12-page report, the new 1981 edition has been expanded to 40 pages, including more than 20 photographs and maps, numerous quotes from Micronesians and U.S. government representatives, and a detailed list of references for further reading.

Special introductory rate (good until November 1, 1981) is only \$2.50 per copy (includes 1st class postage). Outside U.S. mail zones add \$1 for postage. To place order see COUPON.

## REAGAN CUTS

Continued from Page 5

water. It will take another three to five years of the rain and efforts to replenish the soil in the taro patch to take effect, Mark indicated.

The problem, noted Truk Governor Erhart Aten during the visit, is that the more fortunate neighboring islands share their food stocks with islands such as Kuttu to the point that all of their food supplies are depleted, so all are depending on USDA food to supplement their subsistence diets. Termination of the food program could cause many of the Mortlock islanders to migrate to the state capitals in Moen and Ponape where they would be a drain on the limited resources there, the governor indicated.

The group was entertained by singing groups everywhere on the trip, but the songs began to take on a special meaning in Satawan where they told of the hardships of living under Japanese rule during World War II and the desire to be out from under U.S. administration and control their own destiny.

The 900 residents of Satawan requested funds to complete construction of a sub-hospital which began in March. The Saipan based builder defaulted, but the Trust Territory administration provided funding to continue construction so that now it needs only finishing work and lacks funds for installation of equipment and operation of the dispensary, which is the closest thing to a hospital outside of Moen which is about 200 miles away.

Satawan proved to be the foremost example of bureaucratic bungling by the T.T. administrations. Junior high school dormitory rooms were rendered useless because a builder ran out of roofing materials but continued to install ceilings which were ruined by rain;

and a water catchment tank was built at least 14 feet high, or twice as high as the seven foot eve of the junior high building it was supposed to serve -- despite the protests of the Satawan people that this would make it useless.

"It is our turn to try and solve these problems," Nakayama told the audience, calling them "a victim of bureaucracy."

A brand new 375 foot dock at Oneop was dedicated by the visitors. Another Philip, at age 30 the youngest chief magistrate in Truk, who spearheaded the dock construction project, said the dock "shows the will of the people of Oneop to be economically and socially stabilized."

Philip said their main concern "is termination of the USDA food aid at a time we are not completely self-sufficient."

"It has been hard to plant taro," he said, adding that "it may be another five years before we can support ourselves."

Nakayama told the Oneop people that with the funds designated for public works projects in the Compact of Free Association, "after five years the outer islands will feel a positive impact," following completion of priority projects in Truk Lagoon.

He also expressed hope that the Reagan administration would sign off soon on the Compact, so that it can be put in final form and the projects started.

The FSM and Truk government officials also visited Ta, Lukunor and Nama during their trip.

Excerpted from an article in the National Union (Ponape) 8-15.

# Another Nuclear Cover-Up

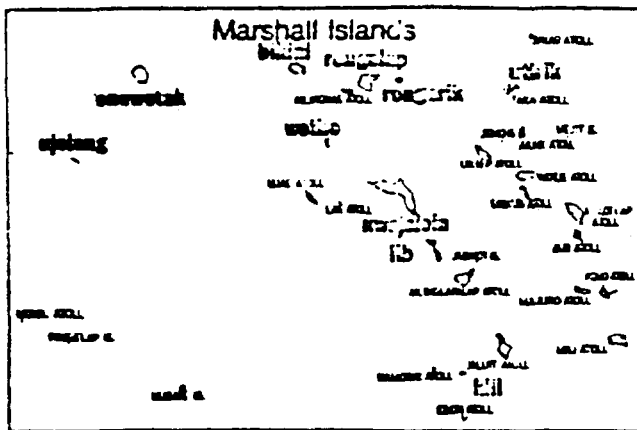
by Giff Johnson

7

Two American military men, stationed on Rongerik Atoll during the "Bravo" hydrogen bomb test at Bikini on March 1, 1954 have recently released statements showing that U.S. officials who made the decision to explode Bravo did so in full knowledge that winds were blowing east, and would carry dangerous radioactive fallout across inhabited Rongelap, Rongerik, Utirik and other atolls.

Their statements point to a 27 year cover up by U.S. officials who have maintained that the contamination of hundreds of Marshallese and U.S. servicemen by Bravo was "accidental" and caused by an "unpredicted shift in winds."

"Prior to and for weeks leading up to the blast the prevailing upper level troughs indicated that wind was blowing to the vicinity of our island," said Gene Curbow, a veteran who was one of 28 Americans on Rongerik Atoll during the massive hydrogen bomb blast. Despite the fact that this weather information was regularly reported by radio to scientists and military officials at the Enewetak Joint Task Force-7 headquarters, U.S. government representatives have claimed since 1954 that the fallout which caused severe burns among the Rongelap people and Rongerik men was an accident.



Dr. Robert Conard, from 1954-1978 the head of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)/Department of Energy (DOE) medical program in the Marshall Islands, wrote in his 22 year report: "An unpredicted shift in winds caused deposition of significant amounts of fallout on four inhabited atolls east of Bikini." An AEC press release after Bravo noted that the people "were unexpectedly exposed to some radioactivity."

In fact, at a Washington, D.C. press conference following the Bravo test, AEC

Chairman, Admiral Lewis Strauss, stated:

*"The Bravo shot (Bravo) has been variously described as devastating, out of control and with other exaggerated and mistaken characterizations. I do not wish to minimize it...but at no time was the testing out of control."*

In a telephone interview, Curbow said Conard's "statement is totally inaccurate. We were measuring wind velocity and weather conditions -- the wind was blowing right at us." Curbow and Donald Baker, another of the Air Force weather men on Rongerik, point out military command chose to ignore the unfavorable conditions.

They arrived on Rongerik -- about 125 miles east of Bikini Atoll -- six weeks before the Bravo test. Curbow stated: "We had the normal weather station items which gave us the capability of making station observations and upper level observations up to and including 100,000 feet above sea level." Baker, an Air Force radio operator said their job on Rongerik was "to provide this weather information and Enewetak's job was to be sure the conditions were absolute right before they exploded any atomic weapon."

Despite the reports of winds threatening to blow radioactive fallout on to the people and islands east of Bikini, the Bravo test went ahead on the morning of March 1. Whether, as many Marshall Islands people think, the U.S. intended to use the Marshallese as guinea pigs in their nuclear experiments, or the U.S. simply had no concern for the lives and health of either the Marshallese or their own military personnel, the well being of those people on the endangered islands was clearly of low priority.

The 28 Americans on Rongerik, just as the Rongelap and Utirik people, were not warned when the Bravo test would be exploded. Baker described the test at Bikini, more than 100 miles away:

*"The sky was suddenly completely lit up, brighter, if possible than daylight itself...The shock wave that came after the initial blast was so tremendous that all the pre-fabricated buildings were damaged in one way or another. Almost all of the windows just blew out."*

Continued on Page

Later in the morning they were startled to see the radioactive ash falling on them. Baker said "if you can imagine a snow storm in the middle of the Pacific, that's what it was like." It began falling about 9:30 in the morning, "until approximately 8:30 or 9 pm that same day," Curbow said.

Soon after, many of the more heavily exposed people developed burns on their arms, necks, backs and feet and their hair fell out. In the years following their exposure the Marshallese have had an abnormally high rate of thyroid disease and cancer, miscarriages, stillbirths and other health problems. The Americans have suffered a similar fate.

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*"When we arrived on Kwajalein we started getting burns all over our bodies and people were feeling dizzy and weak....After two days something appeared under my fingernails and then my fingernails came off and my fingers bled. We all had burns on our ears, shoulders, necks and feet and our eyes were very sore."*

*Etry Enos, Rongelap Atoll.*

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In addition to ignoring the weather forecasts, the U.S. did not evacuate any Marshallese before Bravo as it had evacuated the Rongelap, Enewetak and Wotho people in 1946 prior to the first atomic bomb blasts at Bikini. The strength of the "Able" and "Baker" tests in 1946 was about 20 kilotons. Bravo was about 1,000 times the strength of the 1946 tests, yet there was no official warning of the Bravo test, much less an evacuation of the people.

Although the Rongelap and Utirik people and the American military men suffered the most serious effects from Bravo, many other

atolls and single islands were contaminated with the radioactive fallout. In 1978 the U.S. DOE noted in a study that in addition to Enewetak, Bikini, Rongelap and Utirik, 10 other atolls and islands had "received intermediate range fallout from one or more of the megaton range tests," including: Ailinginae, Ailuk, Likiep, Rongerik, Taka, Ujelang, Wotho, Jemo and Mejit. This information, that at least 1,400 more Marshallese were contaminated with radiation wasn't released until 20 years after the nuclear testing ended. And the DOE has made no attempts to provide this information to the people exposed.

The Rongelap and Utirik people are the only populations to receive continuous medical follow up from the U.S. since 1954. Many Marshallese believe, however, that this medical program has not adequately treated their health problems.

Except for their initial examinations in 1954, Gene Curbow, Donald Baker and the other military men who were on Rongerik have received no medical follow up from the U.S. government, despite their exposure to a radiation dose at least 5 times that of the Utirik people. "We have received very poor treatment by our government," said Curbow, adding that "the Veterans Administration has a deaf ear to the problems we have...I have not received any medical treatment nor compensation from the government in this case."

Congress of Micronesia Representative Ataji Balos's statement in 1972 that the U.S. government "knowingly and consciously allowed the people of Rongelap and Utirik to be exposed" to fallout from the Bravo test in 1954, although vigorously denied by the U.S., has been proved true. And the Marshallese and Americans who were exposed are suffering the consequences.

"I have not been impressed with the assiduity of the...Atomic Energy Commission physicians. For example, there was a general complaint of dimming vision some five or six years ago on Utirik, probably due to an increased incidence of cataracts. None of the people from Utirik that I spoke to told me that any physician examined their eyes in such a way as to be able to recognize cataracts. Instead I was told that two boxes of eyeglasses were shipped to the island being of various models and frames, and the people were to come in and choose whichever eyeglass seemed to help them. And this was the sum of the investigation and treatment of the eye problems -- of what I think is a unique epidemic of cataracts. American citizens would not likely tolerate such handling. At least my patients would not."

-- Excerpt from a report by Reuben Merliss, M.D., following a visit to the Marshall Islands, July 1980



# Micronesia's Compact: Who Votes On What?

9

NSC recently asked Rutgers University International Law professor Roger Clark to comment on various aspects of the Compact, its subsidiary agreements and voting procedures. Two questions and his responses follow:

1. Will all the subsidiary agreements be included in one vote on the Compact, or will any of them be voted on separately?

"I can find nothing in the Compact that suggests any intention that the subsidiary agreements are to be specifically voted on along with the Compact. Indeed, Section 462 of the Compact which lists related agreements seems to proceed on the basis that they are merely inter-governmental agreements to be concluded pursuant to the normal approval process of treaties set out in the Constitutions of each of the governments. This includes legislative action in each instance, but not a referendum. But the answer is more complicated than this, as one quickly realizes in examining the five side agreements so far initiated.

The Belau Radioactive Agreement requires submission to a referendum because of the particular provisions of the Belau Constitution. (It may also amount to a modification of the Compact and thus require submission on that ground also, but subject to a different majority.)

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Understanding on Meanings of Terms in Section 314 of the Compact (dealing with radioactive and other harmful substances and nuclear weapons) provides that it "shall be submitted for popular and legislative approval together with and in the same manner as the Compact." I do not know why this was done. The Federated States Constitution does not have a referendum requirement in the case of radioactive, toxic chemical and other harmful substances. Activities with such substances require the "express approval of the national government." "National government" is not defined. It probably refers to the legislative and executive acting together, but it may refer to the federal executive.

My guess is that the referendum on the Understanding was added for one or more of these reasons: 1. The political sensitivity of the issue (allowing certain nuclear-related activities); 2. While couched as an "Understanding" on "Meanings", the document is essentially a modification of Section 314

of the Compact and thus requires approval in the same way as the Compact; 3. Out of an abundance of caution, to resolve any possible constitutional question about what the "national government" is.

Neither of the Agreements on Marine Sovereignty (initialed by the FSM and Belau) contemplates reference to voters.

The Belau Military Use and Operating Rights Agreement does not contain any provision for submission of the Agreement to the referendum. An argument can be made that the 50-year period of military use, plus a further 50-year "denial" period converts this from just a "subsidiary" agreement to a modification of the Compact which should accordingly be considered directly by the people. This is not contemplated by the documents that I have seen.

The bottom line thus seems to be that only the Compact, and in the case of Belau and the Federated States the harmful substances agreements, will be presented specifically to the voters. (I do not know whether a Marshall Islands harmful substance agreement is being drafted. It does not appear to be required either by the Compact of the Marshall Islands Constitution. Give the somewhat strained interpretations of Section 314 of the Compact in the agreement with the other two governments, one may be necessary to resolve the ambiguities thus created as to just what the original understanding of Section 314 was.)

If the educational campaign surrounding the referendum is properly conducted, the voters will be aware that the other side agreements are a part of the "Compact package" and if they object to them they can vote down the Compact. But they will not be able to vote separately on each one.

2. What effect do the 50-year land use and further 50-year "denial" provision in the Belau Military Use and Operating Rights Agreement have on whether the United Nations will regard the whole Compact package as a valid example of Free Association?

The extension of denial (the right of the U.S. to foreclose access to Micronesia to any third country for military use) beyond the 15-year minimum period contemplated by the Compact was apparently forced on the negotiators for the two sides at a late stage of the negotiations by members of the Senate.

Energy Committee which will have primary responsibility within the Senate for legislative approval of the Compact and related agreements. Apparently, permanent denial was first sought but eventually the 100-year period was thought to be permanent enough.

One of the important features of an agreement of free association in United Nations usage is that the freely associated state be in a position to unilaterally terminate the arrangement. An arrangement that can be terminated by the giving of notice is more likely to be regarded as "free." This power of termination is somewhat hedged in the Compact by the modification that, in the event of unilateral termination, the security and defense powers of the U.S. continue up to the end of the initial 15-year life of the Compact, or for any further period mutually agreed upon.



While there is no direct United Nations precedent on point and the matter is not free from doubt, the extension to the 15-year period is probably not sufficiently burdensome to invalidate the arrangement as far as the U.N. is concerned. Article IX of the Military Use Agreement raises substantially more doubt about whether as a practical matter Belau would be free to terminate the Agreement unilaterally or whether it is so securely locked in to the Military Agreement with the U.S. that it does not have any freedom of action within a reasonable period. Article IX provides that the Agreement is to remain in force for a term of 50 years.

It goes on to provide that, notwithstanding the 50-year life of the agreement, Article VI of Title One (the environmental protection provisions of the Compact) and Sections 311(b) (2) (Denial), 351 (Joint Committee for dealing with disputes over Security and Defense matters) 354(b) (the United States promise to respond in case of an armed attack on Belau) and 454(a) (U.S. promise of continuing interest in promoting economic development in Belau) of the

Compact shall continue in effect for a term of 100-years" and suitable payments shall be negotiated.

50 or 100 years is a much longer and arguably more burdensome period than fifteen years. It has been suggested by Belauan sources that what is really being guaranteed in years 51-100 is a kind of neutrality for Belau whereby there is no U.S. military use and no other country may use the territory militarily either. If this is the case, it seems strange that there are specific references to the environmental protection provisions and to the Joint Committee (for disputes) which presuppose some continued U.S. military activity. Realistically speaking, the 50-year period is primarily cosmetic. It seems unlikely that it is really contemplated that the United States presence would terminate after that time if the U.S. wished it to continue.

Again, whether this part of the deal can pass muster at the United Nations is open to speculation. There is no specific mention of this type of military arrangement in any of the relevant resolutions of the U.N. dealing either generally with the concept of free association or with free association in a particular territory.

The only free association arrangements specifically approved by the U.N. are those between New Zealand on the one hand and the Cook Islands and Niue on the other. Neither of those arrangements have anything comparable to this aspect of the United States-Belau Agreement. Either of those states may unilaterally terminate their arrangement at any time, including New Zealand's "responsibility" for their security and defense. There is no limit in those arrangements of any kind of denial or a continuing military relationship after termination.

Assessing the propriety of the free association agreement under U.N. norms involves assessing all relevant factors to determine the extent to which it is really "free." It seems likely that some United Nations members will look very closely at the 50- and 100-year periods with the suspicion that in the total context they make it extremely difficult for Belau to exercise freely its right to terminate the relationship. In short, the long term denial provisions do not enhance the chances of U.N. approval of the arrangement.

# KWAJALEIN SHOWDOWN BREWING

11

Kwajalein Atoll landowners, incensed at their exclusion from negotiations for the future use of the Kwajalein Missile Range, have threatened a full scale protest occupation of their "off limits" islands which would shut down the vital U.S. Army base.

A growing split between the Marshall Islands government and the Kwajalein Atoll Corporation, representing all atoll landowners, over which group has authority for negotiating with the U.S. was exacerbated by a recent visit of Marshall Islands President Amata Kabua to the United States.

President Kabua, making his first state to state visit in August to meet with the Secretary of Defense and other high ranking military officials, pledged his government's total support for U.S. missile testing at Kwajalein. "We will do our utmost to protect this very important mission that you are carrying out," Kabua said while at the Army's Ballistic Missile Defense Systems Command in Huntsville, Alabama.

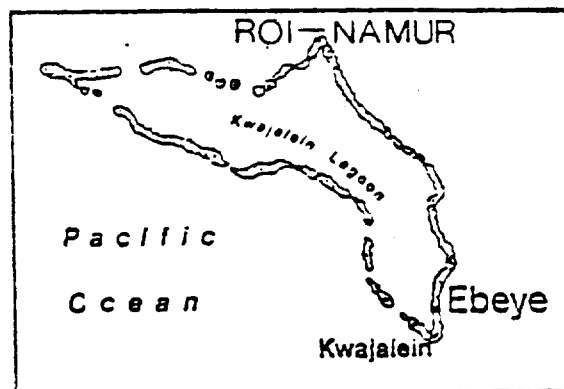
Kwajalein landowners state, however, that there is "no consensus" on the President's statements among Kwajalein residents, adding that there was no consultation with the Kwajalein Atoll Corporation (KAC) by the President before or during his U.S. trip, despite the fact that KAC members were in Washington at that time.

Despite President Kabua's statement of support for the U.S., a small group of Kwajalein landowners began a protest occupation of their "Mid Corridor" islands in late August which may disrupt missile tests, according to informed sources.

In addition to their exclusion from negotiations, the KAC is upset with the long delays in receiving the payments of compensation from the U.S. via the Marshall Islands government, the lack of action on the critical health and living conditions on over-populated Ebeye Island and a U.S. District court ruling in June which upheld the Army's right to search Marshallese when they enter and leave the Kwajalein base.

In January, Kwajalein leaders learned that Marshall Islands and U.S. government negotiators had drafted a "Base Operating Rights Agreement" (BORA) for the missile range without the landowners participation. A "subsidiary" agreement to the Compact of Free Association, the draft BORA would, if approved, be effective for 30 years. The

agreement also allows the U.S. 100 year military "denial" powers -- the right to foreclose access to Kwajalein for the military use of any third nation. The 100-year denial clause, and much of the language, is identical to the "Military Use and Operating Rights" agreement for the Republic of Belau



The KAC responded with a June resolution which states "its members will not...grant any use of Kwajalein...until the Base Operating Rights Agreement...is limited to term of 15 years," with provisions for a review of the agreement every five years.

The current one year interim use agreement for Kwajalein expires on September 30, and KAC spokespeople indicate they will begin an occupation of the many radar-dot off limits islands if this and other demands are not met. A major protest in 1979 forced the U.S. to renegotiate the 1964 lease for Kwajalein Is. -- which paid only \$750,000 -- and provide compensation for other landowners evacuated from their home islands to Ebeye with little or no compensation. The landowners are currently receiving approximately \$9 million a year.

The Kwajalein Atoll Corporation does not want to enter another long term pact with the Army, such as the BORA, in light of the 1964 Kwajalein Island 99-year lease. This agreement bound the U.S. to "improve the economic and social conditions of the Marshallese people, particularly at Ebeye..."

"That lease was signed on the basis of those promises. Those promises have not been kept," said Senator Ataji Balos at a 1976 Congressional Hearing.

In its June 18 resolution, the KAC said it will not agree to "further use of Kwajalein Atoll...until...a master plan for a decent Marshallese community" is developed and "payment of full and fair compensation"

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**KWAJALEIN** Continued from Page 11  
has been made for land used by the military since 1944. During the late 1940's and through the 1950's Kwajalein provided support for the Enewetak and Bikini nuclear tests and since has become the U.S.'s most important testing range for Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles and Sea-Launched Ballistic Missiles (including the Polaris, Minuteman and Trident missiles). The KAC is asking for \$284 million based on the current one year payment of \$9 million.

Additionally, the KAC resolution demands that the Army halt its search and seizure policy against the Marshallese which began in 1980 at the recommendation of the CIA. The base commander ordered the police to search Marshallese packages for goods purchased at the inexpensive Kwajalein stores. Any such merchandise found was confiscated by the police.

Kinoj Mawilon, an Ebeye resident, filed a law suit seeking a court injunction barring the searches. In June, however, a U.S. District court judge ruled in favor of the military's right to search Marshallese in Kwajalein, stating that the "base commander has inherent authority to protect its security and integrity." The court ruling also said, "The status of the occupancy by the United States of the Island of Kwajalein...involves policies such as are made by the highest levels of government, and no individual citizen has standing to challenge it nor to assert claims inconsistent therewith."

This problem is one reason that Senator Freda Kabua -- Kwajalein landowner who was beaten by Army security during a 1979 peaceful protest -- said "there may be 30 more years of treatment as second class citizens in our own homeland" if the draft Base Operating Rights Agreement is approved as part of the Compact of Free Association.

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Ebeye residents -- now more than 8,000 on just 66 acres -- are concerned that there has been little improvement in Ebeye's sewer and water system, hospital or dilapidated government housing.

A 1978 Trust Territory report emphasized this situation:

"As with the shortage of water, the lack of proper sanitary facilities is a major cause of the high rate of sickness on Ebeye. Additionally, foul odors and visible water pollution are part of the normal environment in which the people must live and work and the children must play."

During his Washington, D.C. trip, President Kabua strongly endorsed U.S. missile range activities, but did not publicly mention the problems on Ebeye resulting from the Army base. Additionally, although the unanimously approved Kwajalein Atoll Corporation resolution was sent to President Kabua in June, there has been no official government response in over two months.

The U.S. has ignored the problems on Ebeye for years and both the United States and the Marshall Islands government have so far excluded the Kwajalein landowners from negotiations on a new Kwajalein agreement. Operation of the range is dependent on the cooperation of the KAC which has said its minimum demands must be met by September 30 when the interim use agreement expires -- or they will not enter a new agreement.

The controversy over the draft Base Operating Rights Agreement points out the shortcomings of Compact defense provisions stemming from lack of citizen participation in the status negotiations. Ultimate approval of the Compact of Free Association by the people under these circumstances would seem difficult.

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# Micronesia's Compact: Meeting Uncle Sam's Needs<sup>13</sup>

"While the strategic forces based on Guam will no doubt remain there, the proposed base for Tinian could also accomodate strategic forces in addition to general purpose forces and storage facilities. If, in the event U.S. bases in foreign countries in the Western Pacific are lost or reduced some of the forces from these bases could be redeployed to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands."

--Lt. Col. E.E. Perry, U.S. Army War College, 1973.

"If...the Government of the United States requires the use of areas within Palau, the Marshall Islands or the Federated States of Micronesia in addition to those for which specific arrangements are concluded pursuant to Section 321(a), it may request the Government concerned to satisfy those requirements through leases or other arrangements. The Government of Palau, the Marshall Islands or the Federated States of Micronesia shall sympathetically consider any such request and shall establish suitable procedures to discuss it with and provide a prompt response to the Government of the United States."

--Section 321(b), Compact of Free Association.

"The only feasible fall back position (from Asia) is unquestionably located in Micronesia where islands bases unlike those in S.E. Asia would be under permanent U.S. control. Because of its excellent facilities and permanent political relationship with the U.S., Guam would certainly be the center of any increased U.S. military activity in the area. It has minimal value, however, without U.S. control of the entire Trust Territory.

"Palau has excellent anchorages, Ponape and Babelthup have land areas in excess of 100 square miles and are suitable for nuclear weapons storage and training areas.

--Lt. Co. A.R. Giroux, U.S. Army War College, 1973.

"...The Government of the United States may conduct within the lands, waters and airspace of Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia the activities and operations necessary for the exercise of its authority and responsibility (for defense)."

--Section 312, Compact of Free Association.

"The widely scattered islands of Micronesia provide needed dispersion (of military bases) in the nuclear age. By using several islands to support a complex of military bases instead of concentrating on a single island such as Guam, an enemy would find it extremely difficult to destroy U.S. defenses with a single coordinated nuclear attack."

--Lt. Col. G.W.T. Loo, U.S. Army War College, 1973.

Continued on Page 14

"A Micronesian-Pacific Defense Force (MICPAC), commanded by a U.S. Rear Admiral and a Japanese deputy with headquarters in Yokosuka or Guam and operating bases in Guam and the Trust Territory, is envisioned. The composition of the force should include a U.S. aircraft carrier and two U.S. destroyers supplemented by Japanese Anti-Submarine Warfare assets (surface and air)...

"Perhaps...homeporting of one or two Japanese destroyers plus a squadron of P2J's on Babelthuap (Palau) would merit study. MICPAC would entail 'controlled access'... MICPAC requirements would be modest -- refueling, some repair facilities, operating areas, port visits, storage areas, etc."

--Captain N.B. Gooding, Jr., U.S. Army War College, 1975.

"The Government of the United States may invite members of the armed forces of other countries to use military areas and facilities in Palau, the Marshall Islands or the Federated States of Micronesia...Use by units of the armed forces of other countries of such military areas and facilities, other than for transit and overflight purposes, shall be subject to consultation with and, in the case of major units, approval by the Government of Palau, the Marshall Islands or the Federated States of Micronesia."

--Section 315, Compact of Free Association.

## KABUA PROPOSES BIKINI N-DUMP

Continued from Page 1

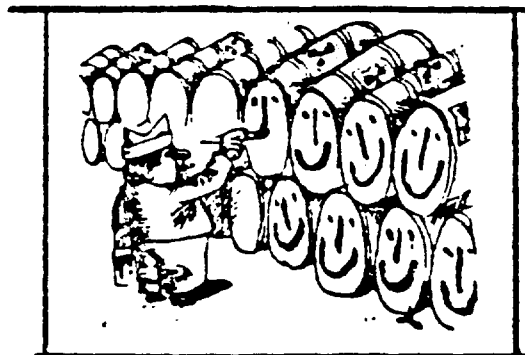
Reflecting the delegates' sentiments, Northern Marianas Governor Carlos Camacho said, "As long as I am governor of the Northern Marianas I will continue to oppose these plans, and even when I am not the governor I will oppose them as an individual."

Kabua said he saw the nuclear storage idea as a source of revenue for the Marshall Islands and said later, "We could charge the Japanese a fee for disposing on the islands."

Kabua said his government wants to begin a feasibility study on the temporary storage of low level nuclear waste on land. Kabua stressed that he would have to see the results of a study, poll his people and win the support of his Pacific Island neighbors before recommending that Japan store nuclear waste in the Marshalls.

Speaker of the Guam Legislature, Thomas Tanaka, echoed Kabua: "I think it's a good idea," he said. Lt. Governor Hilary Techeligi of Yap, said, "I won't say it's inappropriate and I won't say it's appropriate. I think it's a good tactic" to draw Japan's attention away from ocean dumping.

Other government heads sharply opposed Kabua's plan, noting that to allow nuclear waste storage in the Pacific would set a "dangerous precedent."



There was no immediate response from the Japan delegation to Kabua's proposal. One Japanese official, who declined to be named, said "The proposal is in return for commitment from Japan that there will be no ocean dumping. There would have to be a lot of talking to a lot of people in the government of Japan before there could be such a commitment."

Bikini representatives responded strongly to Kabua's statements. "It is the desire of the people of Bikini to return to

## ***The United Nations, May 1981: Views...***

### ***... On Economic Development***

"Generally speaking, it must be admitted that the Federated States of Micronesia still awaits the establishment of functional basis infrastructure and coordinated effective social service institutions. While work continues towards the completion of a program of primary capital improvements initiated by the U.S. some years ago, we suffer from a lack of provisions for maintenance and the lack of a program for concurrent secondary development, both of which are necessary to achieve maximum benefit from the primary development projects."

--Vice President Petrus Tun, Federated States of Micronesia.

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"From the analysis of the report transmitted by the Administering Authority (U.S.), it appears that the inhabitants of the Trust Territory are more dependent than ever on American assistance which supplies more than 90% of their financial resources to them. In this respect, the fact that the income received from copra and tuna fishing has declined compared with the preceding year is certainly disturbing."

--Paul Poudade, Representative of France, U.N. Trusteeship Council.

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"Progress in the quantity of available infrastructure has been made during the past year...Unfortunately, neither the Government of the United States nor the Republic of Belau is satisfied with the quality of the infrastructure improvements...The new roads have not been built to specification, and unless they are resurfaced in compliance with contract requirements they will not last more than several years. The water system still does not work. The people of Koror and its surrounding areas have water for only two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening. The Republic of Belau desperately needs \$500,000 to fix the leaks in the water system and we have asked the U.S. Congress for such an appropriation. If the water system can be adequately repaired we believe that the sewer system, which is now not operating, can be made to function...Failure to have adequate water not only threatens our health and safety but also our basic economic development. For example, tourists will not tolerate periodic water availability and inadequate sanitation.

"The new Republic of Belau is of the opinion that no amount of political autonomy will produce the kind and quality of independence that we seek unless that political autonomy is accompanied by a substantial degree of economic independence. To date economic development in the Republic of Belau has been wholly inadequate."

--Vice President Alfonso Oiterong, Republic of Belau.

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"In the area of basic capital infrastructure the Council might have gained the impression from certain remarks made here that the process of installation is now almost complete and that with only a little additional expenditure we would possess the basic equipment necessary to provide social services and to conduct expanded economic activities. Make no mistake about it, such is not the current condition of the Federated States of Micronesia. Moreover, we are a very long way from that goal.

"While we shall soon complete the construction of the primary road system on the main islands in the F.S.M., the U.S. has refused to initiate a program for the construction of secondary roads which are necessary if we are to obtain maximum benefit from the primary road system. Even the existing primary roads, which are almost entirely unpaved, suffer drastically as a result of a lack of funds for further construction and upgrading, not to mention adequate maintenance."

--Asterio Takesy, Federated States of Micronesia

"...There is unemployment, there is a water shortage, and there are problems with electric power and the communication and transport systems. Every year there is a balance of trade deficit, the traditional forms of national production are declining, and medical care is in a catastrophic state, as indicated by the representatives of Micronesia. This is eloquently illustrated by the fact that in the whole Territory there are only two doctors of Micronesian origin.

"If the Trusteeship Council really cares about the fate of the people of Micronesia it should emphatically demand that the Administering Authority rapidly and effectively contribute towards the development of the economy and the raising of the social and economic standards of living of the population and assist it in moving forward towards self-determination and independence."

--Mr. Berezovsky, Representative of the Soviet Union, U.N.

"In tourism and fisheries development, the need for a reliable basic infrastructure cannot be overemphasized. One cannot have tourists visiting when there is running water for only a few hours a day. There cannot be a thriving tourist industry when we do not have control over our transportation industry. There cannot be successful fishing enterprises when we cannot produce ice or the electricity to make ice or the water from which ice can be produced. All of these are basic necessities that must first be provided before any real small enterprises surrounding these basic economic focal points can be developed."

--Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Anton DeBrum, Marshall Islands.

"The Micronesian Industrial Center, a copra oil processing plant, reopened its operations early this month, providing much needed jobs for our youth. We are also hopeful that funds will be forthcoming from the U.S. Congress to enable us to continue the cattle feeding project which has been transferred to us by Trust Territory Headquarters."

--Victorio Uherbelau, Republic of Belau



**... On The Compact**

"We are confident that the end of the trusteeship is in fact within our grasp. We feel that final negotiations with respect to the subsidiary agreements to the Compact could be concluded within a mere matter of months. In that light we think it is obvious that the U.S. Government should accelerate the process of transferring the remaining governmental functions. Some of the areas encompassed in this category include the transfer of responsibility for communications, administration of U.S. federal programs, construction of capital improvements, financial management, and participation in the United Nations Development Program."

--Vice President Petrus Lun, Federated States of Micronesia.

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"The Belau Commission on Status and Transition undertook those negotiations with a strong commitment to the Constitution of the Republic of Belau and it successfully negotiated a Compact of Free Association which would not require amendment to that Constitution in order to implement the Compact...It is fair to say that the Republic of Belau is committed to becoming a State freely associated with the United States in the near future...We will work diligently with the Government of the United States to complete these negotiations, including the negotiation of the six remaining subsidiary agreements, at the earliest possible time."

--Vice President Alfonso Oiterong, Republic of Belau

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"...The Compact of Free Association and one of its subsidiary agreements set forth the mutual agreement of the United States and Palau with respect to potential U.S. use of certain land areas in Palau for military purposes. For the most part, these areas will provide for non-exclusive use and joint use. There is only one exclusive use area, and it is located in a sparsely populated area of the northern island (Babeldaob)."

--Mr. Strasser, United States representative.

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"We are particularly encouraged at this time by the development of our political institutions...The constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia has given us the basis for the formation of a functioning state and national governmental system. During the past two years we have seen our hope for success mature into a feeling of confidence, reflected in the enthusiastic support for our constitutional government expressed at all levels of Society in the F.S.M.

"...Even though we still require significant outside resources and time to address our many problems, only we Micronesians can most effectively attack those problems. We must be afforded the opportunity to learn from our mistakes, as well as to reap the fruits of our accomplishments."

--Asterio Takesy, Federated States of Micronesia.

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"...Any plebiscite on future political status will be carried out uniformly and simultaneously throughout Belau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia and that the plebiscite will be preceded by a fair, objective and comprehensive public information program covering all alternatives."

--High Commissioner Daniel High, Trust Territory

"Our health services, quite frankly, are breaking down. This is happening because of distant centralized planning that does not meet our particular needs, because of the largely inappropriate nature of the clinical-curative system of health care in our islands environment and because even that system has been crippled by the discontinuation of many field health services due to budget constraints.

"Our education system is also in a critical condition. Too few new facilities have been built for the growing population. Facilities built during the early period of emphasis on education are deteriorating or have been destroyed by storms or tropical climatic conditions. Declining real-dollar budgets restrict high school matriculation to as low as 40 percent in several states. Moreover, our primary school attendance rate is less than 70 percent. In general, our public high school students graduate with the equivalent of a fifth grade education by U.S. standards and with inadequate linguistic skills to function in a modern economic system or to increase productivity in fisheries and agriculture."

--Vice President Petrus Tun, Federated States of Micronesia.

"...The problem of basic health in Micronesia is not simply a hard battle that is in the process of being won; it is, on the contrary, a hard battle that is steadily being lost. We are not slowly but surely developing a cadre of trained medical personnel in Micronesia; we have been rapidly losing medical personnel. We are not slowly but steadily building up stockpiles of medical supplies. Such supplies are being depleted as precious budget dollars are diverted for other purposes, notably minimal maintenance operations.

"It profits Micronesia very little to build a new hospital if there are no qualified medical personnel to staff it or if, as has happened, one sends a sick child to a shiny new hospital only to find that the hospital has no antibiotics and not even an aspirin. One extreme fear on this subject will perhaps best be portrayed by relating the unofficial results of recent health surveys in various parts of the Federated States of Micronesia that have shown an alarming incidence of active tuberculosis in children entering grade school in Ponape and an equally alarming number of cases of leprosy in the States of Truk and Ponape. Trends such as these are not indicative of progress on the health front.

"Serious as such problems are...we have mentioned them only to emphasize that the Trusteeship must be terminated. We have reached the point of diminishing returns from a well-intentioned expatriate administration centralized at a point far distant from our lands, our waters and our culture..."

--Asterio Takesy, Federated States of Micronesia.



"...The Trusteeship Agreement, in effect, provides the Administering Authority with an instrument whereby it can declare our country domestic territory where convenient and foreign when U.S. bureaucratic interests so dictate. This highly arbitrary and unjust interpretation of the Trusteeship Agreement is a direct affront to the principles of the Trusteeship system..."

--Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Anton DeBrum, Marshall Islands.

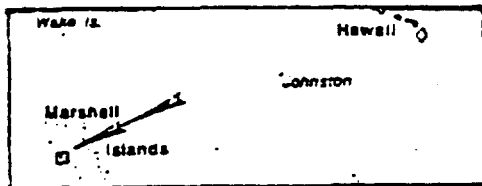
# MARSHALLESE SPEAK OUT

19

by Glenn Alcalay

I recently returned from a research field trip in the Marshall Islands where I conducted many interviews with people who are continuing to suffer the long-term effects from radiation in the aftermath of the United States' atomic testing program in the Pacific. I met with people from Utirik, Wotje, Ebeye and Majuro on their respective atolls, and I was able to learn about some of the ongoing problems and consequent fears and anxieties plaguing these victims of U.S. militarism.

While on Ebeye Island (in Kwajalein Atoll), I spoke with Jabwe Jojur -- the magistrate of Rongelap Atoll -- who expressed much fear and apprehension concerning his people who remain on Rongelap. Jabwe explained that since the time of the Department of Energy aerial radiation survey of the Northern Marshalls in 1978, the DOE had placed a quarantine on the northern half of Rongelap Atoll, and since 1978 the people of Rongelap are not allowed to reside or collect food or copra from the quarantined area. As Jabwe explained, the fish circulate throughout the Rongelap lagoon (as do other foods in the Marshallese diet) and now the people of Rongelap are quite concerned about eating contaminated foods from their lagoon.



Jabwe said that the Rongelap people are really frightened about remaining on Rongelap now, and asked me if there was anything that we could do to insure the safety of the people still on Rongelap. I suggested that we obtain the raw data from the 1978 DOE survey and have independent scientists -- i.e., scientists not affiliated with an agency or laboratory of the U.S. government -- assess the raw data and make recommendations to the people of Rongelap concerning whether they should remain there, or evacuate due to dangerous levels of residual radiation on their atoll. Currently, attorneys working with the Atomic Testing Litigation Project in the Marshalls are trying to force the DOE to surrender the raw data, and when they get the data it will be distributed to such groups as Physicians for Social Responsibility and other respected scientists for their review.

Jabwe's fears about Rongelap are certainly justified in light of the recent disclosure by the DOE that several atolls -- not all -- of the Northern Marshalls contain varying levels of residual radiation from the testing era, in addition to several cases of thyroid abnormalities occurring in atolls other than Rongelap and Utirik, where doctors and scientists from Brookhaven National Laboratory have narrowly focused their past studies.

On Utirik, I spoke with Emto Kel, a victim of the fallout who has recently had his thyroid removed. In an interview Emto said:

"I now believe that the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) scientists used us as the people from Rongelap in an experiment to test 'the bomb.' When the U.S. first went to the moon they sent a dog so that in case something went wrong it would not hurt people. The same thing happened when they tested bombs in our islands because they considered that we were like animals and were of no importance."

When I spoke with Nine Letobo from Utirik about her perceptions of the radiation problems, she told me that:

"The AEC doctors treat us as if we were animals for their use and they do not tell us the truth about our problems. Could you please help us to find honest doctors to tell us the truth about our sicknesses? I also believe that all of the Marshall Islands have 'poison,' and I now believe that the AEC doctors have been keeping secrets from us for many years about our condition."

While on Ebeye, I talked with Almira Matayoshi from Rongelap who conveyed the following:

"In 1978 I was in Japan to attend an anti-bomb conference. At Nagasaki and Hiroshima hospitals we visited the bomb victims. The people told us of some women who had committed suicide because they felt they were in prison and could not visit their relatives. This is the same feeling we now have living on Ebeye due to our inability to visit our families on Rongelap where we refuse to live because of the 'poison.'"

Continued on Page 20

"The U.S. tested bombs here because of the expanse of ocean and because our islands were suitable for testing. They did not care about the people in the Marshalls -- they think they are something to use for testing. It is just like what the French are doing to the people of Tahiti, and some of those people were put into prison for protesting."

John Anjain, who was magistrate of Rongelap in 1954 during the fallout from "Bravo", explained in an interview that:

"From the beginning of the testing program in our islands the U.S. has treated us like animals in a scientific experiment for their studies. They come and study us like animals and think of us as 'guinea pigs.' We are the 'guinea pigs.'"

The lawsuits being filed for personal injuries and property damage on behalf of the Marshallese by the lawyers of the Marshall Islands Atomic Testing Litigation Project will not reverse the tragic and pernicious effects of radiation. However, if the Marshall Islanders succeed in winning a settlement from the U.S., there are some positive and constructive ways to use the money in the future.

For instance, the Marshallese feel very strongly about the need for independent doctors and scientists to help them with their

ongoing radiation problems. It is feasible that an independent team of doctors could provide them with the compassionate and comprehensive medical care that has been so lacking in the past. It is true that even the best medical treatment cannot undo the latent effects or genetic damage from radiation, but an independent group of doctors can at least stem some of the fears and anxieties caused by the callous and negligent treatment by the Brookhaven doctors in the past.

Additionally, it is quite possible that some of the money from the settlement could be used to establish a small-scale fishing industry for some of the outer islands in the Marshalls. The United Nations Development Program has recently instituted a pilot project in India using flat-hulled fiberglass skiffs which use five-horsepower diesel engines. These small skiffs cost about \$7,000 and require little maintenance and are ideally suited for lagoon fishing. Small deep freeze units, powered by solar energy would also be ideal for the outer islands, where alternative energy using photovoltaics and wind generators are perfectly suited for tropical localities in the Trade Winds region.

(Glenn Alcalay was a Peace Corps Volunteer on Utirik Atoll in the Marshall Islands, 1971-1977. He has represented the Utirik Council in U.S. Congressional Hearings and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in anthropology at Rutgers University.)

## BIKINI N-DUMP

Continued from Page 14

Bikini, their homeland," Senator Henchi Balos said. "We cannot welcome nuclear waste on Bikini."

Balos said he went with Kabua to Japan in July at Kabua's request to talk to the Japanese about storing nuclear waste in the Marshalls. "I told him it was premature for me to speak," said Balos, adding that "Bikini has its own independent study of the contamination going on so I couldn't say yes or no to the Japanese about storing waste on Bikini."

Balos said he has personally told Kabua that storing wastes on Bikini is out of the question. "Even if it was stored on another islands in the Marshalls I would oppose it."

Kabua contended that many Bikinians favor storing nuclear waste on Bikini. They might be compensated by the Japanese for allowing the storage, he said. Kabua also said Bikini is already so contaminated no one can live there. "What is the problem of adding low level waste into it? What harm does it do?" he asked.

(Combined from Pacific Daily News 9-3, 9-4; UPI 9-2, 9-3, 9-4; and President Kabua's speech to Guam conference.)

High Commissioner Daniel High reports that the unofficial population of the Trust Territory, following a September 1980 census, is 116,667. This figure does not include the Northern Marianas, where the census was conducted as part of the U.S. national census. High noted that several areas still need to be verified. This population figure represents a 13% increase since the 1973 census.

Although up-to-date unemployment figures were not available at the 1981 U.N. Trusteeship Council meeting in New York, High said, "I anticipate that the figure of approximately 19 percent which we cited last week will be found to be accurate...It should be understood that, with over half of the population residing on remoter outer islands within the subsistence economy, any figures citing unemployment must be carefully defined and understood," he added.

#### CONGRESS SAYS NO \$\$\$

A U.S. congressional committee has deleted \$32 million earmarked for the military lease of 18,315 acres in the Northern Marianas, primarily on Tinian, from the 1982 budget. Part of the Marianas commonwealth covenant, approved by congress in 1976, the U.S. option on the lease expires in 1983.

In another matter, the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives decided not to approve funds for the rehabilitation and resettlement of northern Enjebi Island in Enewetak Atoll. While the southern islands in Enewetak were resettled late last year, controversy over the safety of the northern islands has surrounded the Enjebi people's attempt to return home (10 nuclear tests were conducted on the 1/3 of a square mile island). Approximately \$10 million was being sought for the rehabilitation of the island.

The Marshall Islands Atomic Testing Litigation Project, a consortium of more than 10 U.S. law firms, has announced the filing of more than 2,000 multi-million personal injury claims against the U.S. government on behalf of its Marshallese clients.

Additionally, U.S. Court of Claims suits are being filed on behalf of 14 atolls and 2 islands in the Marshalls. They are seeking \$400 million for each atoll or island for loss and damage to land and radioactive contamination of foods and water. For more information: MIATLP, 10100 Santa Monica Blvd Century City North Building, Suite 460, Century City, California, 90067.

#### FIRE DESTROYS MARSHALLS GOVERNMENT RECORDS

The two year old government of the Marshall Islands, an American administered Trust Territory, lost its operational center and irreplaceable financial, legal and other records in a predawn fire August 24.

The blaze destroyed the administration building, which housed the offices of the chief secretary, the attorney general and the auditor general, the departments of finance, immigration and social security and the Marshall Islands credit union. Also destroyed were two government warehouses containing valuable equipment parts and other materials.

No one was injured in the fire, which was discovered by an official who was in his office working late on a new budget. The cause of the blaze is under investigation. The administration building was originally a wartime quonset hut erected on the shore of the Majuro Lagoon just after World War II, when Majuro was a navy base. (Honolulu Star Bulletin, 9-7-81)

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### JAPAN STEPS UP DUMPING PLANS

The Japanese Cabinet decided at its July 17th session to join the OECD-NEA's (Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) Multinational Consultation and Surveillance Mechanism for Sea Dumping of Radioactive Waste and notified them to the effect in writing on the same day.

This is the last step before notifying the NEA one year prior to the execution of the planned Pacific nuclear waste dumping. Government officials claimed that this action was part of the ratification procedure for the London Dumping Convention (see MSC Vol.6 #1) which took effect in Japan November 14, 1980 and that this did not mean the controversial plan would be implemented immediately. But it shows clearly that Japan intends to carry it out regardless of the Pacific Islanders' protests especially in conjunction with the building of the ship which will carry and dump the wastes.

Stepped up protests and increasing international pressure against the Japanese government's nuclear waste dumping plans are urgently needed.

-- From Han-Genpatsu News, Japan (July/August 1981)

Two decades plus two have now passed  
Since we witnessed the nuclear blast  
An exciting thing for a twenty year old  
But we're wiser now -- and not so bold

Like innocent children on the fourth of Jul  
We watched the fireball in the sky  
Saw the mushroom shaped billowing cloud  
Felt and heard the thunder so loud

Knowing not what the future would bring  
The latent effects of Pandora's thing  
Man had exploited the olympus fire  
No matter if innocent or without desire

Curses of the Gods have visited some  
With more wrath yet sure to come  
Cancers sword of misery and eventual death  
Threatens each of us till our last breath

To the American government that put us in  
the learch

We serve as statistics for the future  
research

No compassion -- or compensation for guinea  
pigs

Only cold indifference from bureaucratic  
prigs.

-- George Mace, a veteran of Operation Hard-  
tack nuclear test series, Enewetak Atoll  
1958.

MICRONESIA SUPPORT COMMITTEE  
1212 University Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826 USA  
(808) 942-0437